"Parinirvan-Sthala" of Buddha in Khushinagar?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development of tourist places is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. The details of projects sanctioned at Khushinagar during the 1st four years of the Ninth Plan are as under:—

SI. No.	Year	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
1	1997-98	Visitor Centre	Rs. 39.84
2	1998-99	Yatri Niwas	Rs. 39.93

(b) The number for domestic and foreign tourists who visited Khushinagar during 2000 is estimated as 1,22,641.

More Yatri-Niwas in Gujarat

3027. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri Niwas presently catering to the tourists in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their number in the State for the benefit of low co-t tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and promotion of tourist places/ Yatri Niwases is the responsibility of the State Government of

Gujarat. However, the Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects prioritised in consultation with them. A project for construction of Yatri Niwas at Dakor was sanctioned during 1985-86 for Rs. 41.20 lakhs. Two Yatri Niwases are being operated at Ambaji by the State Government of Gujarat. However, there are a number of Dharmshalas and Guesthouses operated by private trusts.

(b) Construction of tourism infrastructure is a continuous process for the benefit of visiting tourists. During 2001-2002 a project for construction of Yatri Niwas at Somnath has been prioritised for Rs. 70.00 lakhs.

(c) The same as in (b) above.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement of Tourism Infrastructure in Tamil Nadu

3028. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any special efforts to tap and improve the tourism infrastructure in Tamil Nadu, in particular and in other parts of the country, in general;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to improve the facilities and come up with unique projects in tourist centre in Tamil Nadu where there is a good scope for improvement?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Development and improvement of tourism infrastructure in the country is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/UT Administrations. However, Central Department of Tourism provides financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with them. From Vllth Plan onwards (till 31.3.2001) 178 projects of Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned for Rs. 2837.82 lakhs.

(b) Government of India have been providing financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of